

the loan. Again, I say park those corporate jets. How about announcing that you are willing to take \$1 a year for the sake of trying to repair what is wrong with your company and trying to put that company back on track?

I understand it wasn't their fault that sales dropped 30 percent. They are victims, as are all Americans, of this economic crisis. It is not their fault that sales dropped 30 percent. So if they need some help to save 3 to 5 million jobs, I think most Americans would say: Let's save those jobs. But most Americans would also ask the question: Where is the self-sacrifice on the part of those folks who are running these companies? Let's see a little and let's hear a little self-sacrifice from people who say: I will own up to this. I will put something significant on the table in terms of trying to turn this economy and these companies we run around.

Let me finally say, there are a whole lot of folks across the country who are doing business the right way, Main Street businesses, community banks. They come to work in the morning. They turn the key. They open the lock on that door. They are at risk. They are just trying to make a living. Yet they, too, are victims, not because they got engaged in the kind of behavior in which some of the biggest companies in this country were engaged. Some of the biggest financial companies were engaged in reckless behavior. When the Financial Modernization Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate nine years ago, an act that was a devastating piece of legislation that led us down this path to a financial collapse, I said back then when I voted against it—and I was one of eight Senators to vote no—I said: If you want to gamble, go to Las Vegas. No, instead they were allowed to gamble by creating holding companies and merging bank enterprises with securities and with real estate and other risks.

We knew you shouldn't do that. We learned it in the Great Depression. It caused the closure of massive numbers of banks. Some of my colleagues brought a bill to the Congress and got almost everybody to agree to it that said: These lessons are old-fashioned. Let's let these financial institutions merge and fuse together risky things with banking, securities, and real estate. What an unbelievably ignorant thing to do. We had learned that lesson before and forgot it.

Guess what. From that day on we began to see the kind of inherent risk established in financial enterprises that someday most of us believed would create the house of cards that would collapse. And it has. Now the question is, how do we put this back together?

Let me say this: If I didn't have great hope for the future of this country, I would hardly be able to get up and go to work, but I think this is a resilient, wonderful place. We have made very

big mistakes. A lot of people have made very big mistakes, perhaps all of us. But this country is a great place. Think about what America has been through: the Civil War, the Great Depression, beating back the forces of fascism and nazism. We have done so much in this country to prevail. This generation of Americans is not about to lose. This generation of Americans, too, will prevail. But it is going to require all of the effort of every one of us.

This isn't about politics. It is certainly not about Republicans and Democrats. It is about creating good public policy that gives the American people confidence and hope in the future. That is what will get us out of this rut. Those who caused the financial wreckage, who drove this economy into the ditch, are not going to get us out. It is good public policy by thoughtful people that will begin mirroring what happens on Main Streets and community banks all across the country, doing business the right way. When that happens, we will put this country back on track. I hope that is sooner rather than later. I hope the American people do not lose hope because we believe, all of us believe, in the great promise of this country.

It is true that we face great challenges, but we are turning a page. We will have a new Congress. We will have a new President and a new determination to try to fix what is wrong and put this country on a better path.

I yield the floor.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased that the President has proclaimed November as National American Indian Heritage Month and the Congress has designated November 28, 2008, as Native American Heritage Day.

This is the time when our country traditionally offers thanks for the bounty and protections we enjoy. This year, Congress and the President have chosen to specifically acknowledge and be thankful for the contributions and achievements of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Together, we have called on Federal, State, and local governments, tribal governments, and others to come together to celebrate and share with one another the cultures, traditions, and languages of more than 500 tribes.

In my home State of Nevada, our tribes represent three distinct cultures and languages Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe. Throughout my career, I have promoted programs and education efforts to preserve these native languages and others and expand cultural programs for children, young adults and elders. Nevada's tribal leaders and youth tell me this cultural exchange with tribal members and with those in their school and local communities bridges differences and leads to individual successes. Nevadans can be proud of our State's diversity.

And while Nevada's 26 tribes are distinct, they share goals common to nearly all sovereigns—to care for their people, to keep them safe, to help them prosper, to protect and use their resources wisely, to engage in the larger world while being mindful of their histories.

During this session, the Senate worked with tribal leaders and advocates and our colleagues in the House to help tribes achieve these goals. Working together, we reauthorized the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act, reauthorized the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, and amended laws to strengthen families and improve the care and development of children in foster care. We passed legislation that helps tribes develop their natural resources, expand their commercial activities, and encourage investment in Indian Country. During this time of war, we made it a priority to help our Native American veterans and their families—who continue a long history of serving in our Armed Forces—by expanding benefits and services under the G.I. bill. Under the leadership of Chairman BYRON DORGAN and Vice Chairperson LISA MURKOWSKI of the Indian Affairs Committee, the Congress has worked to honor our first Americans and fulfill our promises to them.

During this month especially, we recognize the leadership and efforts of tribes and others to improve the lives of Native Americans. But our work is not finished and we will not rest on the accomplishments of the 110th Congress. As majority leader, I am committed to work with my colleagues to reform health care and reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. I hope that the Senate will be able to again consider a package similar to one the Senate passed earlier this year.

As we approach the end of this Congress, I am pleased that we take a moment to recognize and celebrate the gifts Native Americans and Alaska Natives share with all of us daily.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, each November we celebrate American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month to honor the first inhabitants of this land and recognize the relationship this country has with American Indian people. In that same spirit, I would also like to specifically recognize the nine treaty tribes that I am honored to represent in South Dakota.

American Indians are unique among other groups in this country because of the government-to-government relationship established through countless treaties—documents affirmed in article VI of our Constitution as the supreme law of the land. This special status and the strength of these age-old contracts have enabled American Indians to shape this country's history in profound ways, as tribal history is deeply entwined with America's. The continued fulfillment of our treaty and trust obligations along with a respect for the

tenets of tribal sovereignty are thus essential responsibilities of this country.

South Dakota's tribes have a special place in this history due to their proactive leadership in the Federal-tribal relationship. For example, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie was entered into by Indian tribes in South Dakota that desired a peaceful relationship with the United States and a mutual recognition of sovereignty. In this treaty, like many others, the United States entered an agreement to end hostilities and for the cession of land, in return entering into a contract to provide assistance with education, health care, farming and other necessities; these responsibilities continue today. During this month of recognition and remembrance it is only appropriate to recognize the special status of the treaty tribes.

In addition to this unique governmental relationship, American Indians actively enrich the fabric of our Nation's character in many ways. Tribal members have courageously served to protect America in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and they have served at the highest rate of any group in the country. Tribal educational models are rapidly gaining respect for an approach that stresses the importance of history and culture as well as the skills necessary for students to prosper in an increasingly global world.

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month falls in the same month as Thanksgiving and I hope this affords us with the time to give thanks for the sacrifices of the first Americans. Once reduced to a population of less than 50,000, the American Indian population is now some 4.5 million strong. Their story, like that of the country as a whole, is a proud, resilient history and I am committed to supporting tribes as they continue to build a strong future. Observance of American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month honors the unique heritage of this country's first inhabitants, and most importantly reaffirms our responsibility to honor Indian treaties.

RETIREMENT OF MARGO CONNOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Margo Connor, who has retired after 33 years of service to the Senate community. During the past three decades, Margo Connor has assisted in providing catering for Senate functions on Capitol Hill. In a fast-paced environment with a high turnover rate, she remained dedicated and personal, with a keen ability to establish close relationships.

Margo spent 17 years in the special functions office for the former Dirksen Senate Dining Room. She compiled menus and prepared the former Senate Dining Room for functions. Meeting and interacting with many different people were her favorite aspects of her service; she was on a first-name basis with former Senators such as David Pryor, Thomas Eagleton, Gary Hart,

and Jennings Randolph. Margo's commitment to providing a pleasant, comfortable, and professional environment for Senate functions resulted in close friendships. Senator Randolph would often call her at home, making requests for a special bread with nuts on it. After returning from their honeymoon, Senator JOE BIDEN and his wife shared their pictures with her. Instead of calling it the Senate Dining Room, Senator PRYOR referred to the Senate Dining Room as simply "Margo's Room."

After working in the Senate Dining Room, Margo took a position in the accounting office processing bids for the Senate Restaurant. Several years later, she moved to the Capitol Senator's Dining Room where she was a hostess. After working as a hostess, she worked in the Senate catering office, where she has been for the last 13 years.

In her years on Capitol Hill, Margo has seen a great variety of events. She hosted functions with the NFL, the Dalai Lama, and a number of other notable people. Among others, she met Paul Newman, whose suitcase she watched in the kitchen as he spoke at an event. During annual events at Union Station commemorating Columbus Day, Dr. David R. Curfman, president of the National Columbus Celebration Association, told her that she was the only one who understood what he needed.

Margo will miss the people she works with, whom she considers to be like family. In turn, I know she will be missed greatly by those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her. In fact, Margo has been such a presence in the Senate, and has befriended so many over the years, that it is difficult to express how much she will be missed. I am pleased to join the entire Senate community in thanking Margo for her years of service and wishing her a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JIM SHANE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to salute the service of a distinguished Kentuckian. This gentleman recently ended a long career devoted to the service of his country and our commonwealth.

His name is Jim Shane, and I am proud to say Jim is a friend of mine. Jim recently stepped down as executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, a post he held since 1997. During his tenure, Jim can point to many accomplishments, but he was particularly instrumental in preparing Kentucky for the rigors of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure—BRAC—process. The commonwealth, in particular Fort Knox, was a big winner in the BRAC process, and no one was more instrumental in this success than Jim.

Jim had a vision for Fort Knox, one in which the installation would again be a home to combat troops and to a number of major Army commands. He

then worked tirelessly with Federal and State officials, the BRAC Commission and the Department of Defense to make that conception of Fort Knox a reality. The result was that Fort Knox emerged revitalized from the BRAC process. Consequently, central Kentucky stands to gain immeasurably from the economic benefits stemming from the installation's enhancement, and our armed forces will be the better for Fort Knox's improved stature.

Prior to his service for Kentucky, Jim served his country with great distinction. He spent 27 years of commissioned service in the Army, rising to the rank of brigadier general. His career highlights include service as Deputy Commanding General, United States Recruiting Command, in which he was responsible for manning the Army's all-volunteer force.

Jim also received numerous medals, awards and decorations for his efforts in the Army including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification badge.

I am proud to say that Jim is also a fellow alumnus of the University of Louisville.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this fine Kentucky patriot for his long and notable career of public service.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN LEE McELROY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is never too late to honor great heroism and sacrifice. That is why I am proud to say that after 40 years, a brave Kentuckian lost in battle will finally return home with honor to American soil.

On May 12, 1968, MAJ John Lee McElroy of the U.S. Air Force undertook what would be his final mission. Stationed in the Quang Tin province of the Republic of Vietnam, he was the navigator on a C-130 Hercules aircraft when his plane was struck by intense enemy fire and crashed. There were no survivors.

"On this particular day [Major McElroy] was flying a most important mission of aerial evacuation for American and allied personnel," wrote COL Marion F. Garuthers, the major's commander, in a letter to his parents. "His example of Christian living significantly influenced all persons with whom he associated."

Sadly, while the family of Major McElroy knew his final fate, they did not get to say their final goodbyes. For four decades, his remains went unrecovered. His wife, Regina M. McElroy, and his parents, Oscar L. and Gladys V. McElroy, passed away never knowing if